

Diocese of Takamatsu

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Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu
Prot.No. 13/20



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Dear Parishioners from the Diocese of Takamatsu:

Having received instructions from the Roman Curia's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments from the Holy See, The Diocese of Takamatsu has deliberated over how to celebrate this year's Holy Week and have come to the following decisions:

1. Easter is the center of the entire liturgical calendar for the Church. However, it has been decided that we will hold this year's Holy week in private because of the spread of the Corona Virus. We cannot avoid the possibility of getting infected or being the source of infection. It is a difficult decision based on our social responsibility. Priests will celebrate the 3-day liturgical event on their own without the attendance of parishioners or other ministers.
2. While visiting your local church is not possible, you should plan to join your hearts in celebration with your local parish priest at the time of Mass, in meditation and prayer. If you are able to watch the Mass on the Internet, the Diocese of Tokyo will broadcast Mass online. Otherwise, you can walk in the path of Jesus' passion through reading the Gospel and doing the Rosary. In being alone for these 3 days, you can share in the feelings of the hidden Christians and relive their lives and experiences through this time.
3. For those who have been preparing for conversion or baptism during this time, we hope that you will be able to look forward to these ceremonies to take place after this is all over in your local parish.
4. Please examine the next page in order to understand how to complete the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

April 1, 2020

Diocese of Takamatsu.
Bishop Eijiro Suwa

The Sacrament of Reconciliation in The Diocese of Takamatsu for Holy Week

Basically, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is carried out on an individual basis. You should never feel hindered to approach a priest to carry out this sacrament. However, priests carrying out this sacrament and confessors must take special care in the face of this infection. This includes keeping a good distance, making sure that you are in a well-ventilated area, and wearing a mask.

General absolution, especially for a group of people can only be granted if death is imminent and if there is time to listen individually to confessors. In situations where there is a need for such a thing to happen, the Bishop will advise parishioners and priests.

Please remember that according to The Catechism of the Catholic Church, "When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called "perfect" (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible." CCC 1452.

Even in the absence of attendees, priest celebrate Mass every day. They dedicate themselves to celebrating the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. Let us share in their celebration and the grace we are granted from the Lord. And let us pray for those working day and night throughout this crisis.